REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given to the Official Action of June 15, 2007 and reconsideration of the application as now presented is respectfully requested.

Claims 15, 16 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 3-7 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Rowland (US Patent No. 4,332,847).

Claims 8, 9, 11, 14, 17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Rowland.

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to distinguish more clearly over Rowland as will be discussed later.

Claims 15 and 16 have been canceled thereby avoiding the Examiner's objections thereto.

As now presented, claims 1, 3-14, and 17-20 are pending for the Examiner's consideration and these claims are clearly patentable as will be discussed hereafter.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for patterning an optical element, comprising the steps of: providing a lower mold with a carrier face and a plurality of cooling pipes; positioning said optical element on said carrier face of said lower mold; providing an upper mold above said optical element, said upper mold having a pressing face, a plurality of protrusions with pre-determined patterns on said pressing face, and a heater; heating said upper mold by said heaters; thermally pressing down said upper mold so as to insert said protrusions into said optical element and simultaneously cooling said optical element; and separating said upper mold from said optical element for forming a plurality of patterns corresponding to said protrusions on said optical element.

Claim 12 is directed to an apparatus for patterning an optical element with a thermal pressing process, comprising: a lower mold with a carrier face for positioning said optical element thereon, and a plurality of cooling pipes constructed and arranged in said lower mold to cool said optical element during said thermal pressing process; a holding component disposed on said carrier face for holding said optical element; an upper mold with a pressing face corresponded to said carrier face and a plurality of protrusions of predetermined patterns being provided on said pressing face, said upper mold having a heater therein; and a driving device connected to said upper mold to drive said upper mold toward said lower mold during said thermal pressing process.

Applicant respectfully point that Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to recite that the step of thermally pressing process includes thermally pressing and simultaneously cooling the optical element. This is clearly distinguished from Rowland. Specifically, Rowland discloses

heaters and coolers arranged at different stations. Consequently, Rowland cannot execute the thermally pressing process while cooling the optical element simultaneously. In contrast, the cooling pipes of the claimed invention are arranged in the lower mold, opposite of the upper mold. This enables the claimed invention to perform the thermally pressing process while cooling the optical element simultaneously.

Applicant also respectfully point out that one critical factor of making an optical element is the thermal treatment. A perfect thermal treatment requires a precise control of the heating temperature and heating time. On the other hand, a bad thermal treatment would result in distortion of the optical element. The disadvantageous of Rowland is that the heating temperature and heating time are harder to control, and the apparatus is more bulky.

Rowland discloses a belt assembly for transferring an optical element through several stations for executing predetermined processes, such as heating, pressing, and cooling, etc. The optical element is driven by the belt assembly, and the heating process, the pressing process and the cooling process are performed separately at different stations. On the contrary, the optical element of the claimed invention is held on the carrier face of the lower mold and the thermal pressing process and cooling process are performed simultaneously at the same station.

Claims 15, 16 have been canceled, thereby avoiding the Examiner's objection thereto as being indefinite in failing to limit the apparatus in a structural sense. However, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 18-20 define structural features of the

apparatus and are therefore allowable.

In view of the above action and comments, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notification thereof is earnestly solicited. Should any points remain of issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is requested that the undersigned attorney be contacted at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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